FINAL MINUTES
Meeting of the
TRINITY ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP
December 8, 2003
Victorian Inn - Weaverville, CA

Thursday December 8, 2003
The meeting was open to the public.

Members in attendance:

Member	**Representative Seat**
Tim Colvin	Trinity Lake Resort Owners Association
Serge Birk	Central Valley Project Water Association
Byron Leydecker	California Trout, Inc.
Kevin Lewis	American Whitewater
Dan Haycox	Miners Alliance
David Steinhauser	Six Rivers Outfitter and Guide Association
Arnold Whitridge (Chair)	Safe Alternatives for Forest Environment
Edgar Duggan	Willow Creek Community Services District
Charles Schultz	Bureau of Land Management
James Spear	Natural Resource Conservation Service
Elizabeth Soderstrom	Natural Heritage Institute
Patrick Frost	Trinity County Resource Conservation District
Richard Lorenz	Trinity County Resident
Jeffrey Bryant	American Forest Resource Council
James Feider	City of Redding Electric Utility Department

Designated Federal Representative	
Mary Ellen Mueller	USFWS California-Nevada Operations Office

Members not in attendance: Zeke Grader, Dana Hord, Big Bar Community Development Group, William Huber, South Fork Trinity River CRMP, Jimmy Smith, Humboldt County Board of Supervisors.

1. Welcome and Introduction

Chairman Arnold Whitridge opened the meeting and the members introduced themselves. Members of the audience also introduced themselves.

Whitridge proposed some changes to the agenda. The presentations by Doug Schleusner (Items 3, 11) were combined together and his presentation would follow Item 5. Discussion of the Strategic Plan, Item 6, was to be delayed until the afternoon.

The September minutes were reviewed. Tom Weseloh and Serge Birk made editorial corrections to the minutes.

A motion was made by Serge Birk to accept minutes as amended.

The motion was seconded by Ed Duggan.

The motion was passed.

2. Public Comment

James Feider passed out copies (see **Attachment #1**) of an executive summary of a report that evaluated the effects of increased flow volumes as described in the Trinity River Channel Restoration Flow Alternatives. This report states that increased flows of over 6000 cubic feet per second may have some detrimental effects.

3. Executive Director's Report

This presentation was moved to after Item 5.

4. Fall Flows Monitoring Update

Daryl Peterson, Trinity River Restoration Program, made a presentation the effects of the increased releases of 33,000 acre-feet of reservoir waters downstream into the Trinity River. He prefaced his presentation that an assessment of the success of the release of additional water is best viewed in the context of a "risk management approach" (i.e., did the release of water reduce risk to the salmon?).

Peterson reviewed the effects of the release on river flows as measured at Hoopa. These showed that the managed flows matched a scenario of an increase in natural flows that occur following an occasional, early fall rain. In addition, the releases helped to keep water temperatures low (6 F lower at Hoopa and a 2 F lower at Terwer). Releases appeared to correspond with the peak of the fall chinook run as based on creel survey data. The peak of the fall chinook run occurred on September 16 in Lower Klamath and on October 7 at Willow Creek.

The reason for not releasing an additional 17,000 acre-feet of water was discussed. Peterson noted that, originally, one "trigger" for this additional release was a doubling of the "incidence" of gill parasite, Ich. Peterson noted that there was a doubling of the incidence of Ich during September 30th, but the additional water was not released. The reason for not releasing the water was that the "severity" of the disease was judged to be still relatively low (i.e., the counts of parasites were below 30 per gill arch). The incidence of Ich did increase again later, but this second increase was at the end of the run and was not thought to be as dangerous.

Tom Weseloh asked who made the changes in the triggers (e.g., the need for a high severity was also needed as a trigger). Weseloh noted that this was not discussed at the last TAMWG meeting. Peterson responded that these decisions were based on the professional judgement of Scott Foott who provided expert advice to the Trinity River Restoration Program staff. Foott is preparing a report on his monitoring.

Serge Birk wanted to know what was learned from the overall experience. He asked if any predictions could be made about what the effects might have been if no additional water had been released. It would help to address the "payoff" for releases. Peterson said one thing that was learned was that severity in addition to incidence was recognized as being important disease issue. There was further discussion about a study or report on the effects of the water releases.

Tom Weseloh noted, regarding the increased incidence of Ich that occurred late in the season, that the late fish were new arrivals to the Klamath. Therefore, the higher incidence of Ich in these fish may suggest other factors than "time in the river" may be important.

Peterson listed two other findings regarding the release of water: 1) the increased flows did not seem to cause many fish to move upstream in an unintended manner and expose them to adverse conditions; and 2) there were very few redds in the river during the period of the release—meaning that minor effects on de-watering spring chinook redds occurred.

Peterson noted that redd counts through mid-October were 50 % higher than last year.

Regarding the idea that no de-watering of spring chinook redds occurred, Dan Haycox and Byron Leydecker countered with comments that there were reported de-watered redds above Douglas City.

5. Fisheries Report

Wade Sinnen, California Department of Fish and Game, a presented preliminary estimate of fish runs for this year. Sinnen reported that the total returns of fall chinook to the Trinity River look like they will be higher than average this year, with expected returns to be between 70,000 and 80,000 fall chinook (these numbers include all ages classes—e.g., 2-year old and older). He noted that the hatchery at Lewiston is going to set a record with 30,000 returning chinook this year. It is thought that at least an additional 20,000 to 30,000 hatchery fish may spawn in the river, leaving (by difference) estimates of natural fish returning to the Trinity of between 10,000 and 30,000. In contrast, the Klamath is a bit down. For example, fall chinook returns to Iron Gate are 32,000 versus 25,000 last year; Shasta River had about 4,300 returning chinook this year versus 6,800 last year; Bogus Creek had 12,000 versus 18,000 last year. Creel survey data also suggest that the Trinity run is better off than the Klamath. Overall, the total Klamath basin run is estimated to be about 200,000 fall chinook. Coho run is looking good with estimates between 20,000 and 30,000 fish—but most of these are hatchery origin. Steelhead numbers have been rising over the last five years.

Arnold Whitridge asked about why the predicted run size of 115,000 was considerably lower than the actual returns this year. Part of the reason for a low prediction may have been related to the inclusion of 2-year old fish in the final estimates versus adult fish (3-year old and older) in the prediction. In addition, underestimates of the number of salmon dying in the September 2002 would have resulted in an underestimate on the predicted return for this year.

There was an additional question about the numbers of natural fish and hatchery fish--there appeared to be a large component of hatchery fish in the returning fish numbers. Sinnen, acknowledging this, also pointed out that the Klamath and Trinity had not done many "out-of-basin" transfers regarding their hatchery plants. It was also noted by Curtis Anderson that studies suggest that the genetics are still "pretty good" in the Klamath basin (e.g., they can distinguish tributary fish from mainstem fish by their genetic markers, and that they can't do this on the Sacramento). Still Sinnen noted that the hatchery fish become "domesticated," the gene pool shrinks, and the hatchery fish are thought to be less resistant to disease.

6. Executive Directors Report/2003 TRRP Accomplishments

Item 3 and Item 11 were combined and discussed here. Doug Schleusner, Trinity River Restoration Program handed out a written report that described the activities of the Trinity River Restoration Program from September through December (see **Attachment #2**). Schleusner focused his oral presentation to the TAMWG on the year's accomplishments in a month-by-month format. Specific points included the development of the spring flow schedule in a manner of adaptive management, development of a website, and the work on bridge removals.

During the presentation, Ed Solbos gave a quick update on the Salt Flats Bridge project. Solbos mentioned that the Salt Flats Bridge could be left out of the bridge projects, if no agreement could be reached by January 13, 2004. When asked whether two of the three bridges could be accomplished without violating the CEQA/NEPA, Solbos thought that it could be. Responding to another question, Solbos thought acquisition of the Salts Flat Bridge through Eminent Domain is not a "viable" means to their end.

Schleusner continued his presentation on this year's accomplishments. He noted that the late summer water releases were achieved, and there was a successful gravel introduction at the Cableway site. He also noted that four members of the Science Advisory Board have been selected (biographies of these members were handed out **Attachment # 3**). He cited the continuing planning work on the Science Framework and the Strategic Framework.

When asked about staffing levels, Schleusner reported that two vacancies exist--a fisheries biologist and a budget/grants specialist. He also noted that Lori Kleifgen, interdisciplinary scientist, would be leaving the first of next year.

Additional Discussion of the Review of the Trinity River Restoration Program

Following Schleusner's presentation, there was discussion about the relationship between the TAMWG and the review of the Trinity River Restoration Program. A Trinity Management Council (TMC) subcommittee has been formed to solicit and collect comments on the Program. The bylaws of the TMC allow establish ad-hoc committees. This review committee is to see where the program is today with respect to Record of Decision (ROD). Byron Leydecker was concerned that the ad-hoc committee could diminish the relevance of the TAMWG. Serge Birk mentioned that this was a new initiative and that he had hoped for a presentation. He asked that the TAMWG discuss this issued today.

Arnold Whitridge, in response to Birk's request, reviewed the agenda. Whitridge suggested that the Cableway Gravel Introduction (Item #7) and the Watershed Coordination (Item #10) be shortened.

7. Cableway Gravel Introduction

In order to make additional time to allow discussion of the Strategic Plan and the Review of the Program, discussion of Item 7 was reduced. One question was raised regarding the cost of the Cableway Gravel Introduction. The total cost was $75,000. The Cableway Gravel Introduction project is also described in two handouts (see **Attachments # 4a and # 4b**).

8. Sediment Symposium

Andreas Kraus, Trinity River Restoration Program, described a planned symposium on sediment research and management (see **Attachment #5**). He was requesting that the TAMWG to assign a representative regarding the sediment symposium.

Arnold Whitridge asked if the Watershed Subcommittee would provide the representative. This brought up a discussion about the purpose of the symposium, how it fits into the strategic plan, and what the subcommittee's roles should be.

James Spear agreed to be the representative.

9. Watersheds/Tributaries in SEIS

Tom Stokely, principal planner with Trinity County, reported on progress of documents that will contribute to the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. He reviewed some background on this issue. He noted that there were "non-lawful elements" of the Final Environmental Impact Study/Report (FEIS/R) for the Trinity River and the related Record of Decision. The issue was that the other alternatives were not adequately addressed. Based on Judge Wanger's ruling a supplemental FEIS/R was required to address additional actions that could be taken to restore fish without the need for additional flow releases. Stokely handed out a document that will be put into

the supplemental FEIS/R (see **Attachment #6**). This document describes some of the other restoration activities in the basin and makes recommendations regarding restoration. He asked that TAMWG members make comments and send to him by December 19.

10. Watershed Coordination

Tom Stokely, principal planner with Trinity County, noted that the watershed program of the restoration program has been moving rather slowly. He suggested that the Trinity River be nominated to the EPA and its watershed initiative program. This program could bring in between $300,000 and $1,300,000. Stokely said that it has been his belief that the strategic plan should be drafted to help guide the watershed program. To this end, Stokely previously asked the Trinity Resource Conservation District (RCD) to prepare a proposal to be the watershed coordinator. The RCD did prepare a proposal (see **Attachment #7**). The purpose of Stokley's presentation was to ask that the TAMWG make a recommendation to the Trinity Management Council that the Council request the Trinity County to fund the RCD in this effort.

Byron Leydecker made motion that the TAMWG make a recommendation to the Trinity Management Council to recommend to Trinity County to support the watershed planning by the Trinity RCD.

Ed Duggan seconded the motion.

Motion passed with Pat Frost abstaining.

Retirement of Charles Schultz

Arnold Whitridge noted that Charles Schultz was retiring from government position with the BLM and that this would be his last meeting. A celebratory cake was presented for all to enjoy. Pat Frost presented Schultz with a jar of sediment from the Trinity River. Doug Schleusner read a statement of appreciation and presented a Schulz a shirt. Charles Schultz made a brief statement on his 35-year career in government. He expressed his pleasure on serving with the TAMWG.

11. Strategic Plan: Science Framework

This item was originally scheduled for the morning, but was delayed until the afternoon.

Doug Schleusner handed out a draft of the Strategic Plan 2003-2008 (**Attachment #8**) and a copy of his presentation (**Attachment #9**). During his oral presentation, Schleusner restated the mission, goals, and vision statements as developed by the staff of the Trinity River Restoration Program (first three chapters of the seven-chapter plan). The mission statement focused on protection of "…naturally spawning anadromous fisheries, native plant communities, and associated wildlife resources of the Trinity River basin… to ensure long-term sustainability."

Schleusner also reviewed the five goals associated with the mission. Goal 1 focused on anadromous fish, Goal 2 focused on the river and its physical condition downstream of Lewiston Dam, Goal 3 focused on restoration of tributaries, Goal 4 focused on the use of scientific knowledge, and Goal 5 focused on plant communities within the historic floodplain.

Schleusner went through a time-line scenario of how the program would develop and what results would occur through 2008. The remaining four chapters of draft plan focused on implementation of the program, resource conditions, management, and a budget.

Schleusner asked for comments on the draft and that they be delivered to him by February 2, 2004.

Byron Leydecker thought that the goal statements need to be quantified and achievable. He also thought that standards of performance were needed.

Elizabeth Soderstrom noted a seeming lack of integration of goals and/or objectives linked to a monitoring plan. She noted that the individual components seemed to be there but the connections were not apparent. She also thought more detail was needed on education and outreach. Finally, she thought prioritization would help.

Serge Birk noted that an interaction with hatchery fish should be addressed.

Jim Spear stated his agreement with the need for measurable objectives. He also agreed with an observation by Jeff Bryant that there was, perhaps, too much focus on implementation.

Byron Leydecker appreciated the efforts of Schleusner and specifically that the program has moved beyond the "proposal-type" plan to a "goals-oriented" plan.

12. TRRP Program Evaluation

Curtis Anderson, chairman of an ad-hoc subcommittee charged by the Trinity Management Council (TMC) to evaluate of the Trinity River Restoration Program, described the subcommittee's plans. The goal of the evaluation is to see how the current activities of the Trinity River Restoration Program compare with the Record of Decision (ROD). Any technical member of the TMC can be on the subcommittee. Policy/program people are not on the committee. It is intended that the TAMWG be involved and one representative from one of the subcommittees may be assigned to attend. No criteria for the program have been established.

Elizabeth Soderstrom made a motion that the TAMWG recommend to the TMC that an overall evaluation be performed as follows: 1) include both a technical and programmatic review, 2) TAMWG be included in the technical review, 3) one person from each subcommittee of the TAMWG be involved in the program review.

Seconded by Byron Leydecker.

Motion passed.

13. TAMWG operations

Arnold Whitridge noted that the group has been operating for one year. He noted that the recommendations made by the TAMWG to the Trinity Management Council (TMC) have been generally well received, though other recommendations such as to the Klamath Basin Task Force have not. At this time, he was seeking the comments of other members to see how they felt about the TAMWG.

Byron Leydecker commented on the order of items on the agenda for the meetings. He expressed a desire to have the action items addressed first in the meeting with the reports at the end of the meeting. He also asked that written summaries for the reports be sent out to members before the meetings. Leydecker then asked for ideas of others on what roles the TAMWG should be playing with regard to other groups such as the Science Advisory Board or the TMC. He thought subcommittees should be more active. He would like to see a discussion to help define the role and relationships of the TAMWG to the Science Advisory Board on next meetings agenda.

Serge Birk stated his support for a revised agenda as described by Leydecker. He also noted the need to reduce presentations of non-essential information—a better use of time would be to have reports show what new information is available since the last iteration of the report.

Jim Feider was reasonably satisfied with the progress of the TAMWG and would give the group a C+ or B- only because they are still in the "learning stage."

Elizabeth Soderstrom thought the grade for the TAMWG should be more like a B+. She appreciated Arnold Whitridge's leadership and his wit. She wondered whether a one-day meeting is enough time for the group and that the group should consider a one-and-one-half day meeting with a field trip. She though that perhaps they have a session to talk about subcommittees. She also felt that the group should consider increased representation by the addition of new members.

Richard Lorenz stated that he is quite happy with the progress. He also agreed that management business should be addressed first.

Charles Schultz also thought spending some time in the field would help to not "lose the perspective." He noted that he had served on a number of FACA committees such as this, but the TAMWG was one of the few that he actually looked forward to attending. He gave the group pretty high marks. He noted a reluctance to "deal with the watershed," i.e., to focus on the tributary streams that make up the Trinity.

Ed Duggan commented that it is quite surprising to him that such a diverse group can even come to consensus. He noted a high degree of respect for opinions within the group. He appreciated being part of the group and expressed his belief that they can improve the river. He supported Charles Schultz's comment that perhaps the TAMWG could be a little more "pushy" in its recommendations to the Trinity Management Council.

Kevin Lewis commented that any recommendation the TAMWG makes to the Trinity Management Council deserves a response back.

Arnold Whitridge, in summarizing, asked that staff attempt to provide information in advance.

14. Public comment

No public comment.

15. Assignments and calendars

The next meeting was scheduled for April 1 and 2, 2004 starting at 10 A.M.

The meeting was adjourned.

List of Attachments

This lists the person (source) and the materials that were handed out during the meeting.

1. Jim Feider: Executive Summary portion of a report title "Evaluation of Trinity River Channel Restoration Alternatives."
2. Douglas Schleusner: Executive Director's Report Dec. 2, 2003.
3. Douglas Schleusner: Science Advisory Board biographies.
4. a) Pat Frost: Newsletter of the Trinity County Resource Conservation District featuring a report on the Cableway Gravel Introduction.
   b) Lewiston Spawning Gravel Introduction and Interim Coarse Sediment Solution - USGS, Cableway Gravel Intro
5. Andreas Kraus: Agenda for the Sediment Symposium.
6. Tom Stokely: Watershed and Tributary Component of the Alternative for the Trinity River Mainstem Fishery Restoration: Supplementary EIS/EIR. Draft 11/25/03.
7. Tom Stokely: Trinity County Grants Program Proposal.
8. Douglas Schleusner: Draft Strategic Plan.
9. Douglas Schleusner: Draft Strategic Plan Updates and Working Session – hard copy of the Power Point presentation.